



IN THE DARC



<http://www.w5fc.org>

Randy Patterson, KE5JIT, Editor

February 2011

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DARC UPCOMING EVENTS:

DARC Meeting on the Air - Sunday Feb 6
146.88 MHz 7:00 PM - 1st & 3rd Sundays
All hams are welcome to join this get-together.

Dallas RACES Training Net - Sunday Feb 6
146.88 MHz 8:00 PM - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Everyone is invited to listen, but only RACES
appointed stations are permitted to participate.

DARC Club Meeting - Tuesday Feb 1
Burger House (Informal Meet Up) Dinner 6:00 PM
Brookhaven Church Business 7:00 PM

DARC Board Meeting - Tuesday Feb 1
Brookhaven Church Business 7:00 PM
DARC board meetings are open to anyone who
wishes to attend, visit, and observe.

NTS DFW Early Traffic Net - Every Day
146.88 MHz 6:30 PM - every evening
All hams are invited to this traffic and training
net.



"CW Class Graduates"

By Randy Patterson, KE5JIT

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 / (The following conquered the 5 word per
 minute code test and graduated.)

Four brave folks checked in, participated, practiced and prepared for the final test! Katherine KE5ZCM, Tony KE5TCG, Jonathan KF5IDY and Darwin KE5RFZ stayed with the 2010-2011 DARC CW Class on the W5FC 146.880 repeater.

This group checked in four evenings a week, or took a makeup class by going to the archive and listening to and completed 52 classes. These classes were originally scheduled for 30 minutes each but stretched to approximately 60-75 minutes per class.

These hams wanted to continue with tradition of learning Morse code and passing a code test given by W5AAN.

Be sure and congratulate them when you hear them on the air or see them in person.

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 744266 Dallas, TX 75374

2011 DARC Officers and Directors:

President	Tom General - KE5ICX
Vice-President	Kevin Grantham - N5KRG
Treasurer	Tony Mendina - KE5TGM
Secretary	Larry Melby - KA5TXL
Director (12/2013)	Roger Elkington - KE5YTA
Director (12/2013)	Bill Cahill - AD8BC
Director (12/2011)	James Shugart - N5BKL
Director (12/2011)	Bob Kelly - KE5PHX
Director (12/2012)	Scott Drummond - KE5DKV
Director (12/2012)	Randy Patterson - KE5JIT

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc., founded in 1914, is an ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club, and is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. Your donations to the DARC qualify for tax exemption.

Club meetings are always open to anyone interested in amateur radio. To contact us email: info@w5fc.org.

Our repeater Trustee is Johnny Davis K5JD. Our repeaters are located in the city of Dallas and are available for the use of all licensed amateur radio operators, subject to the repeater guidelines set forth in the official DARC website, w5fc.org.

DARC REPEATERS:

2m	146.880 out	146.280 in	110.0/110.9
1.25m	224.880 out	223.280 in	110.9/110.9
70cm	442.425 out	447.425 in	110.9/110.9

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This newsletter is composed, edited and saved as a PDF file for membership use.

They took their test and then met to celebrate their accomplishment by enjoying fellowship and eating at the Golden Corral.

Many thanks to the instructors as well! Ginger W5AAN (who also produced all the materials and created 52 class sessions, Don W9VE our resident sage on CW, Mike KM5Z, and Tom KE5ICX.

Next year, hopefully, some of our graduates will be instructors for the next crop of brave operators! 73 everyone and thank you for a wonderful class!

Did You Know?

You can become more active in the DARC community by being a member of our Yahoo group? Sign up, start enjoying, and keeping up with calendar events and adding information.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w5fc>

You can stay current by utilizing the W5FC website to renew your membership, make a donation, or just keep up with DARC happenings at:

<http://w5fc.org>

You may also send feedback to the DARC Board by sending e-mail to:

DARCBoard@w5fc.org

You can order DARC name badges through The Sign Man of Baton Rouge

<http://thesignman.com>

Silent Key

AJ5E, Michael Principe, born November 14, 1924 and passed peacefully Thursday, January 13, 2011. A memorial was held on Sunday, January 16.

Michael was a longtime member of the DARC.

'73 Michael

President's Corner



By Tom General, KE5ICX

To begin this President's Corner I'd like to thank the membership for electing me to a second term as president. I appreciate everyone's confidence in our efforts for 2010 and I'm looking forward to your willingness to support the club, again, in 2011. I think we have enormous potential and wonderful opportunities this year.

If you like to do things related to amateur radio, I think there's plenty for you, as a member, to enjoy and explore this year!

I'd also like to thank you for electing another active slate of board members all of whom feel as I do; that the future of amateur radio and the DARC is bright.

As you leaf through the newsletter this month, I hope you'll get a feel for the club direction and you note many opportunities where you can "get involved" and do something you find personally interesting in our favorite hobby.

The Future Isn't What We Expected

During my auto travels between cities (I hate flying), I have plenty of time to play on my radios or listen to my iPod. I have a huge collection of podcasts and audio books I listen to. Recently I've been listening to "Rama II"; the 1989 sequel to the Arthur C. Clarke's "Rendezvous with Rama," a science fiction tale which takes place some 150 years in our own future. What struck me about this story (besides the plot, story and character development, as you would expect) was the

description of the "future." Written by famous Clarke, the father of the modern communications satellite, and renowned Jet Propulsion Laboratory scientist/writer Gentry Lee, the "visionary" firepower for this book was, to put it mildly, profound. There's only one problem with such a book - in this case - written some 20 years ago; no matter how smart the authors, ultimately, they get our "future" technology wrong.

In this case, we can now put the Library of Congress on a single USB stick. Our twenty-second century "Rama" counterparts can only muster a "video" on an audio cube which sounds cute - but almost quaint by today's technology.

Another example, we can fit a complete communications and data retrieval device the size of a wallet (aka smart cell phone) in our pocket, yet Clarke's future world allowed email to be forwarded to a friend's house - like a forwarding messaging service. It's probably a good thing AT&T didn't pursue this money losing, impractical marketing opportunity.

Boy, when you think about it - his "future" was pretty low tech and boring. The reality turned out to be much more interesting and more advanced and came sooner than Clarke imagined a century from now.

The point is this: no matter how smart we are - we have a tendency to underestimate our abilities, capabilities, and, most importantly, accurate vision of the future.

In those 1990's - when this book was written there was also another prediction; amateur radio is dead. Strangely, there's a majority of ham radio operators who believe that. The point is this. That's a false perception. The truth is, there are more ham radio operators today, than at any time in the 100 year history of this hobby. What IS true, is there are fewer hams who are members of clubs. So the result is; the hobby isn't dying, it's, more accurately, clubs which are dying.

So what is a club to do? So what is DARC doing to fix this hobby-wide problem. We already know what we need to do.

Engage new people in this hobby. Yes, you've heard this a zillion times before, but it's a multifold process. So let's start with the "demographics" question. Where do we find our new crop of DARC members?

"New people" come from:

Recently licensed hams
People who wanted to be hams and haven't yet done so.
Potential new hams (but don't know that yet)

Let's ponder this for a moment.

Recently Licensed Hams

We get people already motivated into ham radio who come to our meetings. We cannot forget that these new hams went out of their way to pass licensing requirements. It wasn't a simple "fill this paperwork out", they had to learn basic radio operation, understand some electronics, and safety considerations. That means something - to us and to them.

We, as part of the DARC, should extend every possible welcome - on our repeaters and in our club meetings. If they have questions about the hobby (and they will), do everything in your power to answer their questions. Learn their names, their call-signs, and congratulate them on their achievement. After you've made that effort, change the "they" into "we" - make them feel welcome in the hobby and in our club.

To back up that rhetoric I asked Randy KE5JIT and Katherine KE5ZM to produce a "welcome package" for new members. It contains information about the club, its history, and the resources available to them as new members. I've asked, in every meeting to greet with new members and guests and actively engage them. Remember, this is probably their first

interaction with established hams. Please make them feel welcome!

Ham "Wannabes"

Let's face it "wannabes" are people we know, or meet in other locations and venues, typically at work, at church, or at public functions. These are the folks who stop and ask us about our antennas, radios, and other distinguishing features of our hobby. It's happened to you. Someone goes out of their way to talk to you about the hobby. They mention how they wanted to be a ham when they were a kid or young adult, but couldn't find the time, or didn't know how to get licensed.

By just taking them to an event or explaining why the hobby is fun for you, may be enough to get them interested. There's a reason they walked across the street, asked to look at your car, or reminisced about their youthful curiosity about the hobby: they are INTERESTED. Give them a reason to pursue that interest. Tell them why you love the hobby, ask them why they find it attractive and convince them they are missing out on something (you know they are!).

After you discover this encourage them to come to a meeting or personally invite them to a DARC event, particularly Field Day.

Potential New Hams (But Don't Know it Yet)

Here's the area I want to focus the most time. This is an area clubs never identify.

We know who many of them are, public response agencies and individuals, Boy Scouts, and ...?

Who are we forgetting. Well, let's consider this... Undergraduates at community colleges, universities, and electrical/electronic trade schools are ripe for the "potential ham" category. Many, after graduation, could use actual experience and contacts who permeate our ranks.

With a ham license, one gains, instantly access to the nation's greatest resource: the highly valued and publicly available ham frequencies for technical experimentation. We, as progenitors, of this hobby simply don't sell the idea these frequencies are available for experimenting. Recent news stories are suggesting Russia would like to launch a constellation of internet satellites and provide worldwide high speed wireless access to the internet via these satellites. Any work in this area has tangible and real benefits to the people who use and those who master the technology.

Our potential future hams are more likely to understand and exploit the marriage of computer and radio technologies both as a hobby and as a career. That makes students at universities in our area, prime candidates, and potentially active members of the DARC. It also means, people currently in the hobby can provide guidance and support to these new hams as well as help them clear technical hurdles in areas where experienced hams have already mastered.

Recently, I was watching an on line video portal <http://ted.com>, where scientist after scientist, currently active in space exploration were inspired by the manned missions into space during the 60's and the interplanetary missions of the 70's and 80's. Those missions spurred many to get into aerospace and become "the next generation" of technical pioneers. Many later developed major space missions simply because they were inspired 20 or 30 years ago as teens or young adults which altered their career paths.

The Death of Ham Radio [Is Greatly Exaggerated]

To say "amateur radio" is dead, or "not what it used to be" are two different and contradictory statements. Amateur radio isn't dead. As I mentioned, we have more people registered as hams than at any other time in the history of the hobby. 2009 saw over 30,000 new hams join our ranks. To say ham radio "is not what it used to be" is true! It isn't. Nor should it be. A

fellow ham who lives down the street from me is an old retired "Collins" guy, having worked as an engineer to build some of the radios many of us still talk on. Contrast him with people currently in the workforce and you'll see Dallas harbors a huge population of cell phone engineers and technicians. Yes, the world has changed, jobs have changed, the future isn't what we thought it would be - it's better - more imaginative - and the sky is not the limit.

Emerging technologies require experienced, confident people, more quickly proficient in those technologies than at any time in human history. "On the job" training isn't sufficient, and four year degrees are outdated as the graduates obtain those degrees. As a hobby, we can short-cut some of these limiting factors by actively engaging people, early on. Radio technology is the "hot direction" for today, and for tomorrow. We are more relevant today, than in all the previous years.

People worry about whether we'll lose our spectrum. It's possible, if we don't use it. If it's used for the original intent - which was to nurture the world of radio and communications - I don't think we have anything to worry about. If it goes unused, or we do not act as the champions of this hobby we can lose those frequencies.

The "New" New Economy

I read an article in *USA Today* just last week about the US economy and how it's been transformed many times. In fact, the entire article mentioned how our economy routinely changes, extinguishing huge swaths of jobs while simultaneously creating new jobs. As we know, whether it be huge expansion in the 1950s or contractive economies of the 1980s, the fact remains, economies change. That means, if our hobby is to survive, and we use the radio frequencies we have at the pleasure of the American people, we must show relevance in what we do. As a club, it's our responsibility to do so. Our charter is community service and improving technical prowess as individuals and as a club, we can only do that by being active

and willing to help others in that pursuit, producing the next generation of individuals for the next “new” economy as well as keeping us, already in the workforce, prepared for that same economy.

As a club we can do many things; improve the skills of our members, and provide tangible reasons for others to join us.

When I asked for the formation of two dozen committees it was to do the following:

- 1) Make it possible to expand our club initiatives and goals by involving as many members as possible.

In 2010 we picked up a number of new members who remained active with the club. This expanded our opportunities to do other things. This included the events and club activities I mentioned in last month’s corner. This year we can expand in that direction by reinvigorating our commitment to the public at large.

A. The second reason was to allow these committees to work together and expand the capabilities of the club.

When we created the Tech Net one year ago, I asked just two people to take it on as a project and act as net control. They, completely on their own, added two additional net control stations, invited guests, created a calendar of events, and dramatically grew the net participation. From that we managed more members to the club, many of whom say “Where do I sign up?” and “What do you want me to do?”

[Stuff] My Club Does

By matching people with their passions and asking them to come up with ways of making that passion infectious for others is what will grow the many areas of ham radio in the DARC and to encourage others to get involved. In all the committee assignments, no one person is

“alone” to solve whatever problem or interest they have volunteered for. They have been paired or grouped with others who said they wanted to help. Out of all the committee assignments I don’t think there’s anyone who hasn’t volunteered in the past or not made an effort to help the club. My hope is individuals (current or future members) will join them in getting involved in 2011.

The theme for this year is “[Stuff] My Club Does”, a takeoff on the television series of the same name. But that’s where the similarity ends. My belief is if you do enough different things, and you do them with honesty and enthusiasm, people will show an interest and want to join you in that pursuit. It’s infectious. Also, by promoting those activities to our newly licensed ham base we can capture potential new members by just “being there” and we can do our part to reverse club entropy.

I know in the past, others have set some target. I don’t believe in targets when it comes to people’s interests. A “lot” of people is not the same as “active” people. If we only grow a membership by two new people who are active in the club, in many ways that’s better than a group of people who show up, pay their dues for a year, and disappear. If those two people can persuade two more people to join, and become active - I’ve doubled the number of new, active people. Momentum builds success.

Over the coming months I’ll outline other parts of our activities for 2011, and I encourage you to contact me with your interests and passions. If you are looking for something fun to do in this hobby that’s not been discussed or you are thinking of something we should pursue - I encourage you to get involved, come to our meetings, and check into our nets, and most importantly, volunteer to make that passion a reality.

Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program Benefits the DARC



Get a Tom Thumb Reward card and designate 4056 as the code for the donation program you want Tom Thumb to donate to. The DARC will receive 1% of your purchase price as a donation from Safeway/Tom Thumb.

The club receives a check quarterly from Safeway for this. Please take the time to sign up for it.



Local Hams Participate at Super Bowl XLV

By Bernie Parker, K5BP

There are a number of hams, many local, participating at the Super Bowl at Cowboys Stadium. Many are involved in the NFL's Game Day Coordination. With the preponderance of wireless broadcasting equipment such as cameras and wireless mikes

especially at Super Bowls, it was found that frequency coordination was necessary. One of the primary considerations was to keep the coaches and coach to quarterback wireless comm system interference free.



NFL Sideline Coach Comm System

Another important consideration was to keep the wireless broadcasters from interfering with each other. With a "million dollar" football game broadcast on the line the NFL does not want the game knocked off the air from a rogue signal. The Game Day Coordination is the NFL's method of frequency coordination. All wireless users must coordinate with the NFL GDC before entering the stadium. The NFL Game Day Coordination program as it is known now was founded and finalized by Jay Gerber N3AW in 1999. The NFL coordinates more frequencies in one day than the Texas VHF FM Society does in one year!



Tony Romo demonstrates the Sideline
Coach Comm System

The NFL provides the GDC's with a real nice spectrum analyzer and DF equipment to track down any interference issues. Keller McCrary

N5JNL is the local long time Dallas Cowboys GDC, Kelly Moore KA5ZRQ is his assistant as well as Bernie Parker K5BP.



On the Right Kelly Moore KA5ZRQ

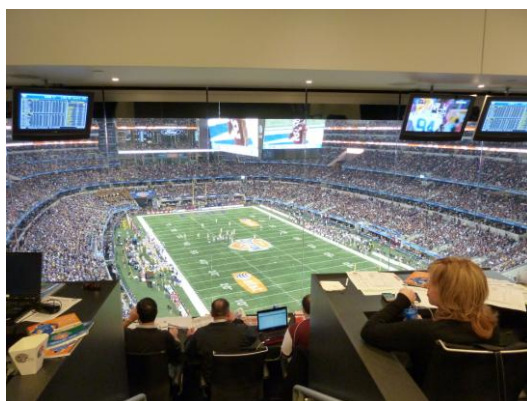
Did you know there is a UHF Amateur repeater in the Cowboys Stadium? Jeff Alexander N4MSE one the people in the Dallas Cowboys IT Department set it up.

Shown Below is Dwin Towell WD5WIN (DARC Member) at the master TV Production facility at the Cowboys Stadium.



For the Super Bowl the NFL has hired a large number of extra help.

One of the things the NFL sought was Ham operators. It turns out the NFL appreciates the experience Ham Radio offers. Other Hams that are participating in the local NFL GDC at the Super Bowl are Pat Hykkonen N5NPL and Terry Allen KC5BHR. Another local Ham Johnny Stiegler WA5ZRQ has been a long Dallas Cowboys Game Day Coordinator.



View from the press box at the stadium

Below is the sideline camera



Keeping the broadcasts interference free is but one the many jobs of the NFL GDC's.

Minutes of the DARC Board Meeting of 04 January 2011

Present

President	Tom - KE5ICX
Vice-President	Kevin - N5KRG
Director (12/2013)	Roger – KE5YTA
Director (12/2013)	Bill – AD8BC
Director (12/2011)	James – N5BKL
Director (12/2011)	Bob – KE5PHX
Director (12/2012)	Scott – KE5DKV
Director (12/2012)	Randy – KE5JIT

Absent

Secretary	Larry - KA5TXL
Treasurer	Tony - KE5TGM

The meeting was called to order by the President Tom General – KE5ICX at approximately 06:17 PM at the Brookhaven Church.

Minutes were approved from the December 2010 Board Meeting.

Tony - KE5TGM sent a copy of the Treasurer's Report.

It was discussed and a request made to ask Tony to add a footnote on the matching grant amount for the Icom 7200 so that dollar amount of Club investment is clear (part was a grant from Grant, KE5ZYP, and now W5XJ)

Items discussed:

- Send Randy KE5JIT items for weekly ham events for DARC newsletter
- Newcomers' packet is a work in progress (almost finished), ditto tri-fold hand out to display in trailer
- Motion passed that Tom - KE5ICX will email Bernie to block the phone patch from use.
- Motion: Discontinue use of phone patch as means of communications on the W5FC repeaters. Tom is to send an email to Bernie to have its functionally disabled.

There was an overview discussion about 2011 Committees and they would be discussed as part of the presentation for the general membership meeting:

- 1) New Membership (packet just completed)
- 2) D-Star: need to move forward (Randy KE5JIT, Grant KE5ZYP, and James N5BKL) will work on this.
- 3) Voter System (Bernie K5BP, Randy KE5JIT, Tom KE5ICX, Grant KE5ZYP, Jay W5GM, Bob KE5PHX, Roger KE5YTA will work on this. Work will probably start in January and want to have up and running for May
- 4) Education: Katherine KE5ZCM will Chair again in 2011 - purpose this year will be to help membership grow technically and in emergency preparedness; Suggestions were:
 - 4 "play days" for 2011 (an idea that MARS uses)

- Bill AE5BK will help plan activities (perhaps build 440 antenna, satellite download antenna, working HF station)
- Solicit suggestions (maybe one before Field Day about how to work HF stations)
- Conservative but easy projects for one to two hours (the Saturday after meetings)
- Let's see about joining with MARS to increase turn out (two or three MARS members were present and favored this idea, too)

5) Grants, and Company Funding: Bill, AD8BC (expand our project base for 2011 through funding via internal and external means; Katherine KE5ZCM and Grant KE5ZYP will work with Bill; considering raffles, sale of equipment, and similar matters. Bill noted that we need to know what items require funding; he needs specified equipment or projects with budgeted amounts

6) Door Prizes: Scott KE5DKV will continue to handle for 2011

7) PIO Newsletter: Randy KE5JIT

8) PSO: Andy KE5KOF

9): Field Day: Will ask Don W9VE if he'd like to be Marshall for the coming year (this involves scheduling, planning, committees and all necessary items, including budget) -- Location? Need to determine location.

10: Boy Scouts of America: Andy KE5KOF, Grant KE5ZYP, and Dwin WD5WIN

11) Degolyer Elementary School: James N5BKL and Randy KE5JIT

12) Email – Response to W5FC emails – Secretary will be responsible – Larry KA5TXL

13) Web/Facebook/Twitter: need someone to be responsible for updates and management of the website; Mike KM5Z can help and needs another person or two – Dhiren KF5FPP and Andy KE5KOF for Public Service updates

14) Ecom: club preparedness: Andy KE5KOF; presentation on RACES, preparation and trailer

15) Trailer (Fuel Cell Fix, Outfit Set up, Documentation: This committee will be lead by Randy KE5JIT and James N5BKL: items needing attention include instruction manual, install fuel valve, fix light systems (missing

lamps) and list of approved members to pull trailer
16) E-Calendar

February Area Events

We have scanned WebPages from our sister Ham Clubs to compile this list. Should you wish to add to this month, send an email to ke5jit@yahoo.com

- **02/01 – Tuesday** – DARC Monthly Club Meeting – Brookhaven Church – 13000 Marsh Lane – Dallas – Board Mtg. 1800 hours; General Mtg. 1900 hours
- **02/05 - Saturday** – Ada Hamfest – Ada, OK
- **02/19 – Saturday** – NWS Skywarn – Granville Arts Center – Garland ARC - 0900 – 1200 – Basic; 1330 – 1600 hrs - Advanced
- **02/20 – Sunday** – 1400 – 1700 hours – 2 M FM Simplex Challenge – Sponsored by PARK. Questions > contests@k5prk.net
- **02/26 - Saturday** – NWS Skywarn – MCL Auditorium Texas Woman's University – DCARA – Denton - 0900 – 1200 – Basic; 1330 – 1600 hrs – Advanced
- **Weekly – Saturday** – TECH NET – DARC – 146.880, PL 110.9 – 1900 – 2000 hours
- **Weekly – Wednesday** – 1900 – DCARA – Information/Training Net – Freq. 146.92 PL 110.9
- **Weekly – Wednesday** – 0830 – IARC – The Breakfast Club – McDonald's, 2410 N Story Rd, Irving (Between 183 & Rochelle)
- **Weekly – Thursday** – 11:00 a.m. - Crony Lunch – Garland ARC – Furr's Cafeteria – 350 S Plano Rd. – Richardson
- **Weekly – Saturday** – 0700 – 1000 hours – MARS – Hams & Eggs – What-A Burger – NE Corner of Old Denton & The Bush

Ramblings on the Cowtown

Hamfest

By Bob DeVance, KF5CRX

The Cowtown Hamfest was considerably larger this year than last. There were three rooms of vendors and sales tables versus two last year. Several commercial vendors were present that were not there last year. In particular, Richard Lenoir KI5DX and Christy N5RDJ from Main Trading Company in Paris, TX, were there with all the latest Wouxun gear as well as other items of interest to hams.

The weather was not particularly good for outside activities as drizzle and a cold wind took its toll on the tail-gaters. Inside, though, it was warm and comfortable. There were a number of presentations during the day. Kip Moravec KE5IB gave his presentation on HSMM-MESH. Unfortunately, he was rear-ended on the way there – minor damage to his rear bumper but major damage to the little car that hit him as he was stopped at a red light. Luckily, no one was injured. There were several apparel vendors present. I finally bought a multi-pocket vest that I think will come in handy for the next event. Barbeque sandwiches appeared for sale around noon. They looked good, but the late breakfast I had trumped it.

Will I go again next year? I'm sure I will. There's always a lot to see and "touch and feel". And then there's always a crew from DARC and other clubs that add to the social side of the event. Cowtown Hamfest 2012 – here I come!

Minutes of the DARC Regular Club Meeting of 04 January 2011

The meeting was called to order by the President Tom General KE5ICX at approximately 07:17 PM at the Brookhaven Church.

Minutes were approved from the December 2010 Board Meeting.

Tony KE5TGM sent a copy of the Treasurer's Report and was presented by Randy KE5JIT.

It was discussed that a request will be made to ask Tony to add a footnote on the matching grant amount for the I-com 7200 so that dollar amount of Club investment is clear (part was a grant from Grant KE5ZYP).

Objective for the New Year 2011:

- Gain active and engaged membership
- Mentor and expand interest in club/hobby
- Focus on emergency preparedness
- Engender "pride in ownership" leadership

Projects (one time activities): Voter / D*Star / Trailer Outfit / Generator Re-Skin / Grants

Voter System: Bernie K5BP, Jay W5GM, Randy KE5JIT, Andy KE5KOF, Bob KE5PHX, Jonathan KF5IDY, and Roger KE5YTA. Goal is to have operational by May 2011 to integrate the voter system into the downtown repeater site

D*Star: discussed issues relating to time; need to establish contact with city again for status, and touch base with Johnny K5JD

Trailer Outfit: new radio / digital integration, buy and install HDTV's that can be purchased with donation contributed by Bill AD8BC, practical applications manual; training class on operating the trailer

Generator Re-Skin: Scott N1SAC, estimated this will take two to three weekends and about \$200; discussion about this concluded probably need more money. There was a request for Randy KE5JIT and N5BKL James to get a quote from Wells Cargo on cost for professional re-skin.

Communications Trailer: Issues include condensate drain is needed because get condensate out of fuel tank; turn fuel off and

starve it out, said Kevin N5KRG, don't just flip the switch electrically.

Grants/Funding: Bill AD8BC, Katherine KE5ZCM, and Grant KE5ZYP, will look into new opportunities for cash; Bill suggested DARC make a list of goals, enough of the equipment desired to create a budget and a wish list; he needs something in mind and in hand before he approaches organizations to ask for funds

Educational Committee:

- Assess club needs and provide venues for activities
- Play day projects, hold these jointly with MARS
- Nets/Net Controls (Morse Code, Tech Net, MOTA.... we've developed more activity and this is useful training)
-

WebPages / Social Media (need to clean up our website before applying for grants, advised Grant KE5ZYP, because potential funders will look first at our website; Mike KM5Z agreed to help again with website and was agreed Dhiren KF5FPP would also be given access to help. PIO responsibility, with interlocking or overlapping responsibility for answering emails Need to update the Elmer list on the website Larry KA5TXL and Bernie, jointly handle email replies right now and this will continue.

E-Calendar: put all events, activities and deadlines on this; want someone in charge, what are we doing? Kevin N5KRG agreed to take this responsibility.

Boy Scouts of America and Degolyer Elementary School: Need to add these activities to the DARC website.

Andy KE5KOF wants to participate again in Jamboree on the Air (3rd weekend in October), like a "Fall Field Day" and there was support for DARC's continuing participation in this event.

The elementary school is located at the corner of Cromwell and Northaven; they have their

own callsign and both are part of DARC's charter. James N5BKL and Randy KE5JIT will work on the Degolyer project.

Emergency Preparedness: There was a brief discussion about developing Projects / Nets / Speakers (perhaps from CERT) / Coordinate with RACES / frequency planning / traffic handling. Note was made that Carl Myer, a DARC member, is a certified CERT trainer. Andy KE5KOF will be working on this.

Door Prizes: Scott KE5DKV will continue to handle this for 2011

PIO / Newsletter: Randy KE5JIT

PSO: Andy KE5KOF will coordinate events, etc.

Field Day: Decide where to go in February (Josey Library was mentioned as possible location since has large adjoining field according to Bill AD5BK as was Flag Pole Hill which has been used for the past several years.

Outreach: overlapping use of Trailer, Field Day, and Educational activities: Technical Schools / Fry's Electronics mentioned as possible venues

Why are we doing this? Accommodate the request and suggestions of active club members.

New Member Applications received and approved:

David KF5HXQ, Sept. 2010 General License
Chas KF5JHA, Dec. 2010 License (Astronomy & Weather & Storm Spotter experience)
Charles Harris KF5DBN, licensed in 2009, retired cardiologist

Program for February Club Meeting: Tools & Test Equipment for Ham Radio: show and tell, bring what you have, explain how it works, whether you like it and would purchase that again. Bob KF5CRX is our New Programs Officer.

Renewals: second mailing: group approved up to \$50 postage and supplies to send out second mailing.

Meeting adjourned.

Treasurer's Report for 12/2010

Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Treasurer's Report December 2010

(12/1/2010 through 1/4/2011)

Date: 1/4/2011

Checking:	\$11,627.37
Vanguard	
(Ann and Whit Griffith Fund)	\$ 8,178.47
PayPal:	\$0.00

Expenses for December 2010:

\$ 50.00 Repeater Site
\$ 29.88 AT & T
\$ 28.36 Beverages for Dec. Meeting
\$100.00 Fire Station Donation
\$100.00 Brookhaven Church Donation
\$114.40 Postage & Materials for Renewal Invoices
\$944.97 Icom IC-7200 radio

Note: \$944.97 was paid by Grant Laughlin KE5ZYP for the radio on 12/1/2010, and this entire amount was reimbursed to him. The club previously received a \$600 grant towards the purchase of this radio, provided by the Keith Beers and Helen Laughlin Beers Foundation on 12/1/2010.

Total: \$1,367.61

Tony Mendina, Treasurer, DARC

QRT

Can you answer this question from the Extra Class question pool?

What is the deviation ratio of an FM-phone signal having a maximum frequency swing of plus or minus 7.5 kHz and accepting a maximum modulation rate of 3.5 kHz?

- B. 2.14
- C. 0.47
- D. 47
- E. 0.214

Answer: 2.14

Read more about it at:

http://w5jck.jackswinden.com/downloads/A_mateur_Extra_Exam_Math_Equations.pdf

Mobile Radio Microphone Hack

By KE5TUZ – Jimmy Hartnett

I will describe how to install the option of an alternate Microphone for a Yaesu radio which uses a modular (RJ11) type hand mic while keeping said microphone's DTMF Functions.

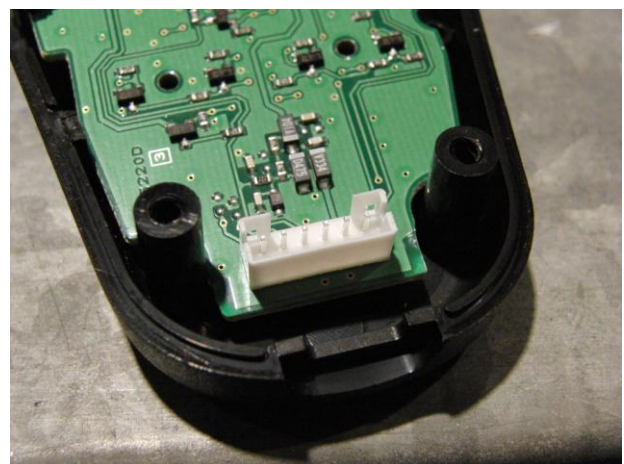
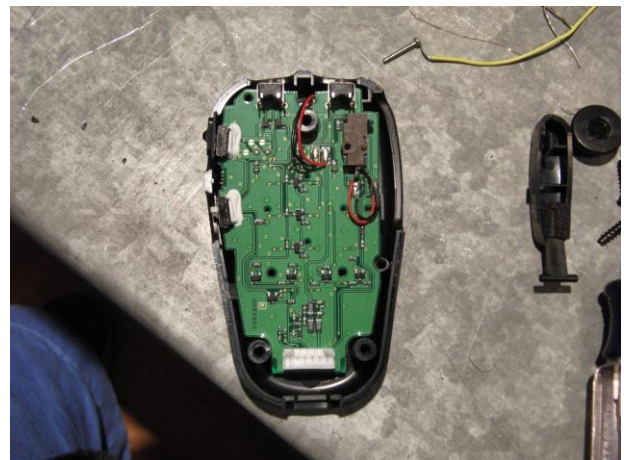
The reason I made this modification is because I want to use the Headset from my Hand Held Transceiver, a Pryme SPM-1500 Throat Microphone, with my mobile unit for a hands free operation and to make it not pick up my car stereo or noise from things like a rolled down window, and I have putting a microphone in front of my face!

Now, there are some modular ADAPTERS out there but they only work with a round 6 or 8 pin type connector, and those are specific to brands as it wasn't standardized wiring. This method installs a standard 3.5mm plug to the Handset so that any microphone can be installed. Originally, I was going to put on a 2.5mm jack specifically for the size needed by headsets but as I worked and spliced the cable I found the wires to be too small to work with, and of the bizarre audio colored strand that I have no idea how to solder. Also, with a 3.5 it's a more standard size and maybe I'll use another mic at some point for who knows what.

Below is the Build Log, I made all decisions and design On the Fly.

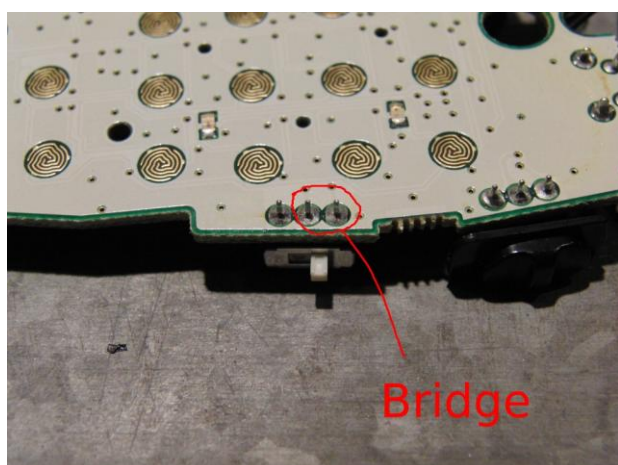
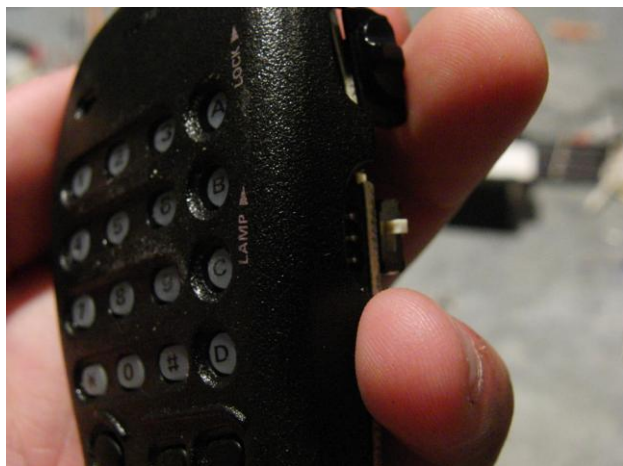
All in all, from time first taken the thing apart to having tested the mod, found problems, and fixed it I think I spent about an hour.

Here is the back of the PCB of the hand microphone; it will be where most of the work is done. I originally planned on just taking out the connector on the bottom and making a cable that attached to that as I do not have a proper crimp tool to make a modular cable, and I always HATE splicing in-line on a cable unless I have some hard connector or box in between and this would have made it easy. But, I wanted to keep my DTMF pad on the handset and have a backup microphone, so I went another route.



This is what I decided to do: the image below shows the switch for the "Lamp" setting, which

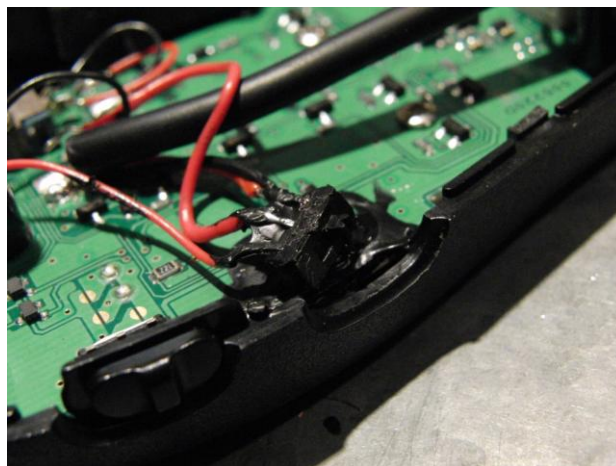
simply turns on the LED backlighting on my mic. I NEVER turn the backlighting off so I found a point where I could install a port. But then, having decided to still use the internal mic, I decided to rewire the switch to make it change between the microphones and solder the lamp contacts into a permanent 'On' state.



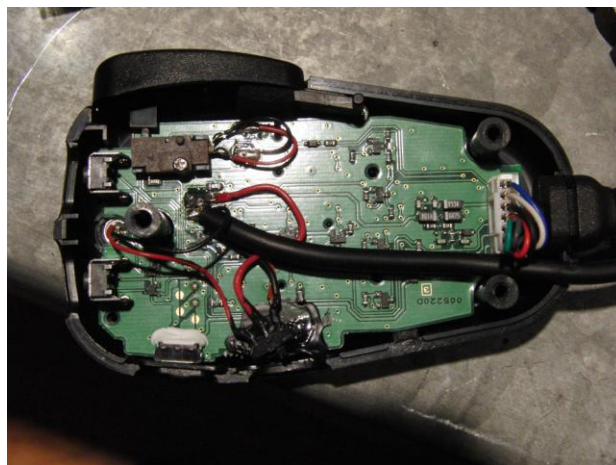
Unfortunately, even with only trace solder remaining after de-soldering, the switch decided to break rather than pull out so I used a different switch which unfortunately will not fit the old slider, oh well!

Also, after soldering and closing the case for the first time, the super glue on the switch was still drying and apparently the back of the case pulled enough on one wire to break it and because the switch glue was still drying, and said wire was helping hold it in place by being soldered, the switch went off alignment. No biggie, it's still usable just not the best looking thing in the world.

just a note, the black stuff you see is Liquid Electrical Tape - a jar is \$6, it's one of the best investments I ever made. I used it to protect the old switch contacts from shorting as well as the new ones should a lead break.



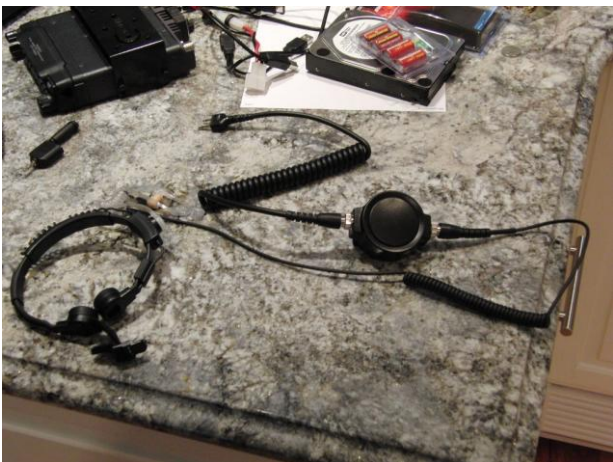
A top view of the installed cable, I drilled a small hole at the bottom near the main cable while the case was assembled.



The finished cable, with the secondary microphone cable runs through the coil for a cleaner look. I should have cut down the external cable though, but it will eventually prove useful to have left it long, it just doesn't look as nice installed to have so much slack.



This is the Pryme SPM-1500 Throat Microphone. It is one of the few that work well (the ones that are non-adjustable and really thin tend to let in a lot of background noise and are a little quiet normally, though the one I keep as a backup from before I owned the Pryme is easily understood on this setup). All I need to do now is workout the PTT button in the middle, as the two connectors going into it are both Female and there is no VOX mode on it. I can open it and peep around, but for now I have to press it and use VOX on my radio (which is only a temporary solution, because if I take a slightly longer pause in speaking it cuts out) or use both the PTT on this and the radio PTT in which case I can clamp down the Pryme PTT but it would defy the point to use the hand mic PTT. What I might do is to set the PTT to Toggle rather than momentary and use VOX and bypass the main button with a switch on the side of the Pryme PTT. It remains to be seen, I may just need to tweak the VOX settings for all I know!



The two-prong connector used by many two-way hand held radios. This model is unusual in that the PTT button simply breaks the circuit to the microphone rather than use a stereo 2.5mm TRS and send a signal to the radio. This is the source of my problem for the most part because I can't work with the connectors for my Pryme PTT unit. It appears to be a *small* version of the standard six pin radio mic cables, too small for me to wire easily. I may just look for a good deal on the "tactical" PTT. Of course, I plan to open the thing first: **If you can't open it, you don't own it!!**

